Alabama Baptist Historical Society

# MINUTES

OF THE

# TWENTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

# Providence Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

## BROAD STREET BAPTIST CHURCH,

**Mobile, Ala., Oct. 9th, 10th and 11th, 1875.**

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

ELDER WM. SPENCE, MODERATOR, Mobile, Ala.

T. C. CARTER, CLERK, P. O. Box, 705, Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE:

SHIELDS & CO, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, EXCHANGE ALLEY.

1875.

# MINUTES.

MOBILE, OCTOBER 9, 1875.

MORNING SESSION.

The Twentieth Annual Session of the Providence Baptist Association assembled at Broad Street Baptist Church.

Elder A. B. Couch, Moderator of last Association, presiding.

Opened with reading Psalm ii, singing the 670th hymn, and prayer by the Moderator.

The Clerk of the last Association not being present in consequence of ill health, Bro. E. A. Shaffer was requested to act as temporary Clerk.

INTRODUCTORY SERMON.

The Moderator stated that Elder J. H. Curry, who had been appointed, had removed from the city, and Elder B. R. Jackson, who had been appointed alternate, having been sick, personally requested to be relieved therefrom, which, upon motion, was granted, by vote.

Bro. G. A. Pearce moved that the preaching of this sermon be omitted. On putting the question it was declared lost.

Elder Wm. Spence nominated Elder J. O'B. Lowry to preach the sermon, who asked to be excused, whereupon Elder B. R. Jackson nominated Elder A. B. Couch, which was carried.

Letters from churches were called for.

Bros. G. A. Pearce and D. W. McGaughey were appointed to read the letters, which were called for by the alphabetical list of last session, and letters from Broad Street, Fellowship, Palestine, Palmetto Street, St. Francis Street, Shell Bank, State Line, Union, Whistler and Zion Churches were presented and read, and list of Messengers enrolled as follows:

BROAD STREET.—H. F. Acker, J. J. Botter, T. C. Carter, M. G. Hudson, E. B. Lott, D. W. McGaughey, S. R. Oliphant, D. Rayford, C. T. Stearns. *Alternates.*—Any member of the church present at the Association.

FELLOWSHIP.—A. J. Rowell, T. J. Brannon, Robert Byrd, Berry Byrd. *Alternates.*—L. Byrd and James Lankford.

PALESTINE.—Silas Pierce and M. J. Cochran.

PALMETTO STREET.—Elder T. N. Coleman, Geo. A. Pearce, R. H. Jones, E. W. Couch, J. M. Cooper.

ST. FRANCIS STREET.—Elder J. O'B. Lowry, Elder Wm. Spence, Elder A. B. Couch, J. A. Cuthbert, E. A. Shaffer, C. E. Thames, D. P. Bestor, W. A. Alexander and M. Threefoot.

SHELL BANK.—Elder H. P. Hanson, Elisha Nelson, Sr., J. D. Nelson, Elisha Nelson, Jr. *Alternates.*—John Morrison, L. Walker.

STATE LINE.—Joseph Grisham, M. Moore. *Alternates.*—Joseph Davis and J. P. Seabrook.

UNION.—Joseph Thompson, R. F. Farnell, R. T. Dickens and Noel Turner.

WHISTLER.—Elder B. R. Jackson, L. Crabtree, J. A. Easterling, Wm. Tucker, S. D. Philyan and W. J. Stringer.

ZION.—Wm. A. Pollard, W. H. Rowell, J. H. Bolton, Jas. Woolley, J. Fletcher and Tillmond Mallory. *Alternates.*—W. N. Bolton and John Piere.

It was moved that the Association proceed to the election of permanent officers.

On counting the votes the Moderator announced that Elder Wm. Spence having received a majority of the votes cast was elected Moderator, and that Bro. T. C. Carter was elected Clerk.

Visiting brethren of the same faith and order were invited to sit with the Association.

Petitionary letters were called for.

A letter from Fair Hope Church, Mobile county, was read, asking admission into the Association, and on motion it was so received. The pastor, Elder C. Long, being present as a delegate, received the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator, reporting seventeen members, for meeting $1 50.

Bro. Moore, from State Line Church, made a report from his church, stating that an effort was now being made to organize an Association in Mississippi, and gave notice that he should probably make a definite request for dismission from this Association before the close of the session.

Elder J. O'B. Lowry moved that a committee of three, which was amended to four, be appointed to take into consideration the Centenial movement now being presented to this denomination, with the view of obtaining historical facts relative thereto, and the prosecution of the educational interests of the denomination.

Elder A. B. Couch seconded the motion, expressing his hearty

co-operation in the movement. Carried, and ordered that the Moderator appoint the committee.

The Moderator appointed as the committee, Elder J. O'B. Lowry chairman, Bros. C. E. Thames, G. A. Pearce and W. H. Rowell.

The Committee on Preaching was appointed by the Moderator, as follows: The Deacons of Broad Street Church, Bros. C. E. Thames, G. A. Pearce and James Woolley.

Elder B. R. Jackson moved that a committee on the state of the missionary work in the Association be appointed.

Which motion was duly seconded and adopted.

The Moderator appointed as the committee, Bros. J. A. Cuthbert, W. N. Bolton and J. M. Cooper.

On motion of Elder A. B. Couch it was

*Resolved*, That this session be adjourned to 3 o'clock this evening, and that the meeting for Monday commence at 9 o'clock, adjourn at 1 P. M. and meet again at 3 P. M. for the regular transaction of business.

Adjourned, after prayer by Elder J. O'B. Lowry.

---

3:30 O'CLOCK P. M.

The Association resumed its session with singing the hymn—

Joy to the world the Lord is come,
Let earth receive her King,

and prayer by Elder T. E. Rowell.

No letter being received from the Beaver Meadow Church, the pastor, Elder T. E. Rowell, being present, made a verbal report of the church's statistics as shown in Table of Statistics.

The Moderator announced the following committees:

*On Finance.*—C. E. Thames, H. F. Acker, Robert Farnell and T. C. Carter.

*On Temperance.*—B. R. Jackson, W. N. Bolton, John Piers and Jefferson Fletcher.

*On Sunday Schools.*—G. A. Pearce, Wm. Pollard and E. A. Shaffer.

*On Missions.*—Elder H. P. Hanson, E. W. Couch, M. Moore and Elder T. E. Rowell.

*On Queries and Requests.*—J. M. Cooper, D. W. McGaughey, R. Farnell and B. R. Jackson.

*On Periodicals.*—G. A. Pearce, Elder A. B. Couch and D. Rayford.

The Committee on Preaching submitted the following report, which was adopted:

FOR SUNDAY—11 A. M.—Centenial Meeting at the St. Francis Street Church. Elder J. O'B. Lowry and Bro. R. F. Manly to address the meeting.

AT 3.30 P. M.—Sunday School Mass Meeting at the Palmetto Street Church. Addresses by Brethren M. G. Hudson, and T. G. Bush.

AT 7:30 P. M.—Missionary Mass Meeting at the Broad Street Church. Missionary Sermon by Elder Wm. Spence. Address by Bro. Geo. A. Pearce.

Bro. M. G. Hudson, Secretary and Treasurer of the Missionary Board, submitted the following reports, which were received and referred to the Committee on Missionary Work for last year:

MOBILE, October 8th, 1875

*To Providence Baptist Association:*

DEAR BRETHREN—In behalf of your Mission Board I beg to report, that in the beginning of the Associational year we ascertained that this Board would not be able to raise funds to discharge the obligations assumed for missionary work at your last session. We deemed it our duty, therefore, to give this information to the Missionaries, Brethren Jackson and Couch, and let them take such a course as they deemed best, your Board having no authority to take any further steps. This was done to Bro. Couch by written communication on receipt of his first quarterly report, and to Bro. Jackson verbally and informally.

We have received no further report from Bro. Couch, and none at all from Bro. Jackson, and must refer you to the reports they will make direct to your body for information concerning their field and work.

We have been greatly disappointed in our collections, many of the brethren refusing to respond to our appeals as heretofore, whilst a few responded liberally.

We were anxious to execute your special instructions to raise the balance due Elder Joseph Mitchell and regret to have to report there is a balance of $84 83 still due him.

We hand herewith the account of our Treasurer, to which please refer for information as to your finances, and which we beg you will accept as a part of this report.

Fraternally yours,

M. G. HUDSON,
*Secretary M. B. P. B. A.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Mission Board Providence Baptist Association in acct. with M. G. Hud--n, Treas.*

DEBITS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1874. | | | |
| Sept. 9. | To balance due Treasurer as rendered | $33 42 | |
| Oct. 17. | To cash paid Elder Joseph Mitchell (1) | 45 00 | |
| " 28. | To cash paid Clerk for postage (2) | 1 00 | |
| " 31. | To Cash paid printing Minutes (3) | 44 00 | |
| Nov. 23. | To cash paid on Elder Joseph Mitchell's draft to Gold Life Insurance Co. (4) | 100 00 | |
| 1875. | | | |
| Oct. 8. | To cash paid on do. do. (5) | 150 00 | |
| " 8. | To balance carried down | 1 67— | $365 09 |

CREDITS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1874. | | | |
| Oct. 5. | By cash received during sitting of last Association—of Broad Street Church, Minutes | $10 00 | |
| | St. Francis Street Church, Minutes | 10 00 | |
| | Palmetto Street Church, Minutes | 5 00 | |
| | Beaver Meadow Church, Minutes | 3 00 | |
| | Brook Cedron Church, Minutes | 3 00 | |
| | Fellowship Church, Minutes | 4 00 | |
| | Oak Grove Church, Minutes | 75 | |
| | Shell Bank Church, Minutes | 2 00 | |
| | Union Church, Minutes | 4 00 | |
| | Whistler Church, Minutes | 3 00 | |
| | Zion Church, Minutes | 5 00 | |
| | Palestine Church, Minutes | 2 50 | |
| | State Line Church, Minutes | 3 00 | |
| | By public collections—Broad Street Church | 24 70 | |
| | Whistler Church | 3 00 | |
| | Zion Church | 10 80 | |
| | Bro. Byrd, pledge of 1872 | 5 00 | |
| Nov. 21. | By cash of Mobile Baptist Missionary Society | 30 00 | |
| 1875. | | | |
| Jan. 31. | By collections in Mobile— | | |
| | St. Francis Street Brethren | 33 00 | |
| | Broad Street Brethren | 22 00 | |
| | Palmetto Street Brethren | 11 75 | |
| May 31. | By collections in Mobile— | | |
| | Broad Street Brethren | 54 00 | |
| | Palmetto Street Brethren | 10 00 | |
| Octo'r 7. | By collections in Mobile— | | |
| | St. Francis Street Brethren | 4 50 | |
| | Broad Street Brethren | 48 64 | |
| | Palmetto Street Brethren | 20 00 | |
| Octo'r 8. | St. Francis Street Brethren | 8 00 | |
| | Broad Street Brethren | 4 00— | $365 09 |
| 1875. | | | |
| Octo'r 8. | By balance brought down, in hands of Treas. | | $1 67 |

E. E.

M. G. HUDSON, *Treasurer.*

MOBILE, October 8th, 1875.

MEMORANDUM.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amount due Elder Mitchell at last Association | $179 83 |
| Amount paid during the year, as above | 295 00 |
| Leaving amount now due him | $84 83 |
| Unpaid subscriptions made at last Association amount to | $69 75 |

Elder J. O'B. Lowry, Chairman of Centennial Committee, presented the following report, which was, on motion of Bro. M. G. Hudson, adopted:

## REPORT OF BAPTIST CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE OF PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION.

From the time of the first Baptist Churches in Palestine to that of the first Churches in America, Baptist *Principles* have been kept alive in adversity, and guarded in prosperity, by their Divine Author.

It is our privilege to live in a day of great religious freedom—a day in which soul-liberty is getting to be the acknowledged, inalienable right of *all* men; and a day in which it is even fashionable to be a Baptist!

When we review the years of trial and persecution through which our ancestors, in Palestine, Europe and America, were called to pass, and contrast with the period in which we live, we are moved to a profound and grateful recognition of God's goodness, and an appreciative recognition of the patience and faith of our Baptist Fathers.

Religious persecution was known to the Disciples in Jerusalem; was continued through the early centuries, during the administration of the Emperors of Rome; alternately increased and waned during the Dark Ages; was renewed in the period of the Reformation, and is not wholly at an end to-day. In our own land Roger Williams was compelled to forsake Massachusetts, because he preached Religious Liberty. He fled "into the wilderness among savages, from the persecution of his brethren, the Puritans," and "founded the colony of Rhode Island, as a shelter for persons distressed for conscience."

In 1651, Obadiah Holmes was publicly *whipped* in Boston for preaching the Gospel of Christ.

G. S. Bailey, D. D., says in his gleanings from the history of

### RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN AMERICA:

"The Code of Sir Thomas Dale, the first published for the government of the colony, (of Virginia,) dated 1611, required every man or woman in the colony, or who should afterward arrive, to give account of their faith and religion to the parish minister, and if not satisfactory to him, they should repair often to him for instruction; and if they refused to go, the Governor should cause the offender for the first offence to be whipped; for the second refusal to be whipped twice and to acknowledge his fault on the Sabbath day in the congregation; and for the third offence to be *whipped every day* until he complied.

"Some Baptist ministers, as in Accomac county, were arrested and imprisoned as vagrants; some were pulled down from the stands, insulted and whipped, and many were imprisoned for preaching the gospel not according to the established church.

"Elders John Waller, Lewis Craig, and James Childs were seized at meeting, June 4, 1768, dragged before the magistrate and imprisoned for forty-three days in Fredericksburg, Spottsylvania county, Virginia.

"In August, 1771, in Middlesex county, Elders John Waller, William Webber, with Mr. Wofford, Robert Ware, Richard Falkner, and James Greenwood, were arrested while at worship, the ministers dragged from the stand, and some were thrust into the jail at Urbanna. Mr. Wofford was severely scourged, and carried the scars to his grave. They commanded him to leave the county by noon of the next day. At the same time there were confined in Caroline jail six other Baptists—Lewis Craig, John Burns, John Young, Edward Herndon, James Goodrick, and Bartholomew Chesning. While thus confined they preached *through the grated windows of their prisons* to crowds who gathered around.

"Dr. Hawks, the historian of the Episcopal Church of Virginia, says: 'No dissenters in Virginia experienced, for a time, harsher treatment than did the Baptists. They were beaten and imprisoned, and cruelty taxed its ingenuity to devise new modes of punishment and annoyance.'

"It is recorded by Dr. John M. Peck, that about the year 1770, when three Baptist ministers were to be tried at Fredericksburg, Virginia, Patrick Henry, the great orator, rode some sixty miles to attend the trial, and unexpectedly entered the court room as the indictment was being read. He listened as they were accused 'of preaching the gospel of the Son of God,' contrary to Virginia law. When the indictment had been read, and the prosecuting attorney opened the case, Patrick Henry, having glanced over the indictment, arose and addressed the court:

"'May it please your worships, I think I heard read by the prosecutor, as I entered this house, the paper I hold in my hand. If I have rightly understood, the king's attorney of this colony has framed an indictment for the purpose of arraigning and punishing by imprisonment three inoffensive men, before the bar of this court, for a crime of great magnitude, as disturbers of the peace. May it please the court, what did I hear read? Did I hear it distinctly, or was it a mistake of my own? Did I hear an expression as if a crime, that these men are charged with? What! "For preaching the gospel of the Son of God!" Swinging the indictment three times around his head, he exclaimed: 'Great God! May it please your worships, in a day like this, when truth is about to burst its fetters, when mankind are about to be aroused to claim their natural and inalienable rights; when the yoke of oppression that has reached the wilderness of America, and the unnatural alliance of ecclesiastical and civil power are about to be dissolved—at such a period, when liberty—liberty of conscience is about to awake from her slumberings and inquire into the reason of such charges as I find exhibited here to-day. If I am not deceived, according to the contents of this paper I now hold in my hand these men are accused of preaching the gospel of the Son of God!" "Great God!!" And with similar words, thrice repeated, he inquired: "What law have they violated?" The judge could endure it no longer, and bade the sheriff dismiss those men.

"In 1632, the Charter of Maryland was granted to George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, a Roman Catholic. But he did not live to plant the colony under it. His son, Cecil Calvert, planted the colony. This charter denounced *death and forfeiture of goods* against any who should deny the Godhead of any of the three Persons of the Trinity, *and fine, whipping, and banishment* against

all who should utter any reproachful words or speeches respecting the Virgin Mary, and provided specially that no Roman Catholic should be molested, yet Archbishop Hughes has had the audacity to claim that Lord Baltimore and the Maryland colony were the first to establish religious liberty in this country.

"Religious liberty was fully established by law in Virginia in 1785, Thomas Jefferson being the author of the bill. Jefferson highly appreciated and acknowledged the hearty co-operation of the friends of religious liberty in this triumph. In 1808, writing to the members of the Baptist church at Buck Mountain, his neighbors, he said: 'We have acted together from the origin to the end of a memorable revolution, and we have contributed, each in the line allotted us, our endeavors to render its issues a permanent blessing to our country.'

"A National Constitution for the United States was adopted in 1787. Its provisions were satisfactory so far as they went, but many felt that religious liberty was not sufficiently guarded. The Baptist General Committee of Virginia, in 1788, expressed their disapproval of this important omission, and, after consultation with James Madison, this committee, in August, 1789, wrote to General Washington, then President of the United States, saying that they feared that liberty of conscience, dearer to them than property or life, was not sufficiently guarded. Washington gave a kind and encouraging reply, and in the very next month, Virginia proposed that immortal first amendment, which was carried through Congress and adopted.

"'*First Amendment.*—Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and petition the government for a redress of grievances.'

"This was a glorious triumph! Religious liberty planted in our National Constitution! Surely the seed first planted on those shores by Roger Williams has taken root and brought forth fruit to gladden a nation and bless the race."

In order to commemorate the marked favor of God, in causing Religious Liberty to arise out of the persecutions of our fathers, and to keep fresh the history of their trials, we would recommend that we join our brethren in setting up Memorials in every State, which will remind those who come after us of the Past—so graciously watched over of God, and encourage them as to the Future—so bright in His keeping.

Educational institutions, in which a broad moral and intellectual training can be secured, are more suitable and more imperishable Memorials than monuments of stone. The endowment, therefore, of institutions such as Howard College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary would be a fit expression of our gratitude to God for His unspeakable goodness to us, as Baptists; and of our appreciation of the loyalty of our ancestors to God and the truth.

And now as the one hundredth anniversary of American Independence draws near, we deem it eminently proper that the Baptists should make 1876 a Centennial year; utilizing the general enthusiasm, which will pervade all minds, by seeking to endow Baptist institutions of learning throughout the land.

The helpful influence [illegible] the religious policy of other nations, and the acknowledged influence exerted by the Baptists in fixing the religious policy of America, justify an enthusiastic Centennial effort on our part. Let us as Alabamians, as Baptists, discharge the obligations resting upon us in this great work!

J. O'B. LOWRY,
C. E. THAMES,
GEO. A. PEARCE,
W. H. ROWELL,
[illegible]

[To each Pastor in this Association we would say: You are requested to urge forward the Centennial movement in your Churches.

1. Making known how God (1) has brought the Baptists through Persecution; (2) has given them Religious Liberty; and (3) would be honored by the endowment of Educational Institutions as Memorials of our gratitude;

2. Inducing active members of your Churches to work for the endowment of Howard College;

3. Soliciting contributions;

To be sent to Elder J. J. D. RENFROE, Talladega, Ala.]

On motion of Bro. C. E. Thames the vote adopting the report of the Centennial Committee was reconsidered, in order that an opportunity might be afforded for a more thorough discussion of this subject. After interesting and enthusiastic addresses by Elders J. O'B. Lowry and B. F. Jackson, and Bros. M. G. Hudson, G. A. Pearce, C. E. Thames and W. H. Rowell, the report was unanimously adopted on motion of Elder A. B. Couch.

Leave of absence was granted to Bro. M. J. Cochran for the remainder of the session on account of sickness in his family.

On motion of Bro. J. M. Cooper the Association adjourned till Monday at 9 A. M., with singing the long metre doxology and prayer by the Moderator.

At 7:30 P. M. Elder A. B. Couch preached the Introductory Sermon. Text, Galatians vi, 14th: "But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Sunday at 11 A. M. Elder J. O'B. Lowry preached the Centennial Sermon at the St. Francis Street Church. Text, 1st Samuel, vii, 11th: "Then Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpeth and Shen and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Bro. R. F. Manly also addressed the meeting [illegible]

taking a review of the trials, persecutions and sufferings of our forefathers in defence of truth and religious liberty from the day of the first churches in Palestine until the present time, and urged it as the duty of every Baptist to take a part in this Centennial movement.

A collection was taken up for this purpose, amounting to $72.00 for Howard College and $20.00 for Greenville Seminary.

At 3:30 P. M. a Sunday School Mass Meeting was held at the Palmetto Street Church, and was addressed by Bros. M. G. Hudson and T. G. Bush.

At 7:30 P. M. Elder Wm. Spence preached the Missionary Sermon at the Broad Street Church. Text, Luke xxiv, 49th: "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Bro. G. A. Pearce followed in a short though pointed address in behalf of the cause of Missions. A collection was made amounting to $248 50.

---

MONDAY, October 11th—9 A. M.

The Association reassembled and was called to order by the Moderator, with singing the following hymn:

Hark! the glad sound, the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long.

Prayer by Elder B. R. Jackson.

Before commencing business the Moderator exhorted the delegates to exercise brotherly love and forbearance in all their deliberations.

The minutes of Saturday's proceedings read and approved.

On motion of Elder B. R. Jackson the Moderator appointed a committee to report on deceased Ministers and Deacons, consist-

ing of Elder B. R. Jackson and [illegible] Byrd.

Bro. Geo. A. Pearce offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the annual meeting of this Association hereafter be held in the month of May, beginning on Friday before the fourth Lord's day in the month.

On motion of Elder J. H. [illegible] added to the Committee on [illegible], and Bro. H. W. McGaughey was appointed on the Committee on Missionary Work for the Past Year, in place of Bro. J. A. Cuthbart, who was unable to attend the remainder of the session.

On motion of Elder J. H. [illegible] consisting of Bros. D. W. [illegible] W. H. Bissell and W. Moore, to recommend a [illegible] for the ensuing year.

Bro. G. A. Pearce, from the Committee on Sunday Schools, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Sunday Schools, from the statistics given in the Church letters, cannot report much progress in this direction. There seems to be a falling off from the reports of last session, and several of the churches give no reports of a Sunday School, if they have any.

We are glad, however, to note that Zion Church has organized a school during the year, and earnestly urge those churches without schools to organize at once and enter upon this great work. We recommend that the Mission Board be instructed to look particularly after this work, and if practicable to employ some one to visit the churches and stir them up upon this subject.

GEO. A. PEARCE, Chairman.

Elder H. P. Hanson, [illegible] Committee on Missions, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Missions beg leave to report as follows:

Since the last session of this Association the reports which have come from the foreign field have been cheering, and even from some of our neighboring States we have had cheering accounts that great good has been done for the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. But let us not forget that the great command is still, "Preach the Gospel to every creature." We should also not forget that it is our duty and our privilege to devote our talents, our means, our all to the advancement of the Redeemer's cause in the earth. But while reports from other parts are cheering it is truly lamentable to see the great destitution which exists in our own midst, and the great necessity of Preaching the Gospel to the destitute within the bounds of this Association.

H. P. HANSON, Chairman.

Bro. G. A. Pearce, from the Committee on Periodicals, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Periodicals [illegible] only "The Alabama Baptist"

sented for consideration, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That this Association, recognizing the claims of "The Alabama Baptist" upon us as Baptists, and its high mission in unifying our people and disseminating our principles, authorize the Moderator to appoint one delegate from each Church represented, whose duty it shall be to present the claims of the paper and secure subscribers for it in his church and neighborhood.

GEO. A. PEARCE, Chairman.

The Moderator appointed the following Brethren to solicit subscriptions in their various churches for the Alabama Baptist: Bros. G. A. Pearce, C. E. Thames, Elders H. P. Hanson, T. E. Rowell, Chas. Long, Bros. M. G. Hudson, Robert Byrd, M. Moore, R. Dickens, L. Crabtree and Jefferson Fletcher.

Elder B. R. Jackson, from the Committee on Temperance, presented the following report, which was adopted:

We your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report that, we find nothing in the Church Letters concerning the too much use of intoxicating liquors, but we believe that the trouble of intemperance is giving way, and that we believe that it will continue to give in proportion to the increase of Christianity. We know no better plan to destroy the use of intoxicating liquors than for the ministry and churches to be faithful in holding up Christ and the teachings of the New Testament, and by laying a good example by not drinking themselves and by the frequent quotation of our Savior, that no drunkard should enter the kingdom of Heaven.

B. R. JACKSON,
W. N. BOLTON,
JOHN PIERE,
JEFFERSON FLETCHER.

Bro. W. A. Alexander, from the Committee on the State of Religion, presented the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee on the State of Religion within the bounds of the Association beg leave to report as follows:

From the reading of the letters from the different churches and from information from individual members, we learn that many of the churches have had the pleasure of welcoming to their fellowship those who have been made willing to accept the offers of salvation upon the terms of the Gospel. Upon the whole, while the reports from the different churches of the State of Religion in the Association are not altogether what we would like them to be, yet they are encouraging and should call forth from us devout thanksgiving to the Great Head of the Church. Some churches have been specially blessed. In addition to baptisms occurring in these churches, nine others were baptized by Elder T. E. Rowell at Chunchula, and with about twenty five other brethren expect to organize a Church during the ensuing month. From the statistics we find that the total additions to the churches by baptisms during the year were, one hundred and nine. From information given us we learn that there

is still great need of giving aid to destitute churches and that more should be sent out and Gospel preached unto them.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. ALEXANDER, Chairman.

Bro. L. Crabtree, from the Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, presented the following report, which was adopted after eulogistic remarks by the Moderator in memory of the deceased:

We your Special Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, beg leave to report, that no Ministers have died during the past year that we know of.

We find that Deacon Solomon Oswald died on the 28th day of October, 1874, at the age of 70 years and 20 days. Deacon Oswald was born in Lexington District, S. C., on the 9th of Oct., 1804, and at the age of 21 or 22, joined the Baptist Church in Monroe county, Ala., and afterwards removed to Mobile county, and was made a Deacon of the Eight Mile Creek Church, and was a faithful Deacon of the Church until he died, which occurred at Whistler.

We also find that Deacon E. M. Byrd, departed this life on the 20th February, 1875, aged 34 years. Bro. Byrd united himself to the church August 25th, 1867, and was elected Deacon of Fellowship Church August 19th, 1871 which office he filled faithfully the remainder of his life.

All of which is respectfully, submitted.

L. CRABTREE,
R. BYRD,
B. R. JACKSON.

Bro. J. M. Cooper, from the Committee on Queries and Requests, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Queries and Requests find no Queries and but two Requests. One from the Whistler Church asking that the next session of the Association be held with that church. We therefore recommend that we hold our next session with the Whistler Church, commencing on Friday, before the 4th Sunday in May, 1876.

The other, a request from the State Line Church for a Letter of Dismission for the purpose of joining a new Association, now being formed on the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. We recommend that the Letter be granted.

JOHN M. COOPER, Chairman.

On motion of Elder Charles Long a letter of dismission was granted to the State Line Church.

Elder Charles Long offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That when this Association adjourns that we go so to meet with the Whistler Church.

On motion, adopted.

Elder J. M. Warnock, Messenger bearing a copy of Minutes and a letter from the Liberty Association was welcomed and invited to a seat among us.

The following brethren were appointed as Messengers to the next session of the Liberty Association: S. R. Oliphant, Elder B. R. Jackson, D. W. McGaughey and T. C. Carter. The Clerk was instructed to prepare and forward a letter also from this Association.

A communication from the American Baptist Publication Society at Philadelphia, asking for statistics and a copy of Minutes of this Association, was read by the Clerk, and the same ordered to be forwarded.

Elder B. R. Jackson, Missionary, presented the following report, which was received:

MISSIONARY'S REPORT.

*To the Providence Baptist Association, to convene at the Broad St. Church Saturday, before the second Sunday in October, 1875:*

Your Missionary for the associational year ending Sept. 14th, begs leave to make the following report:

Immediately after I was appointed I entered upon the work and visited Oak Grove Church, near Bayou D'Batre, and preached for them on the fourth Sunday, and have kept up the appointment with two or three exceptions.

On the first Sunday I preached at Union Church, near Grand Bay, and have kept up my appointment, and at Whistler I preached on the second Sundays, and kept up my appointment. I also preached at Fellowship Church on the third Sunday, and have kept up my appointments.

During the year I preached once at Palmetto Street Church, twice at [illegible] Street, once at Beaver Meadow, and several times at private houses to the sick and infirm, and three times at Zion Church, near Mobile.

In the first of the Summer I held a two days' meeting at Oak Grove. Additions to the church, two, and the brethren and sisters were very much revived. At Union Church I held a meeting and the church greatly revived, with three additions. At Fellowship Church two days meeting was held with additions to the church. At Whistler I held a meeting of several days and nights, which resulted in great good, adding fifteen to the church.

Brethren, my health has been bad this year, but by the goodness of God, I have delivered 70 sermons, traveled 1,200 miles, baptized 8. I have received from Union Church $75 00, from Fellowship $15 00, from Oak Grove $2 25, from Whistler $2 00, from Zion $3 50—total $97 75.

Respectfully submitted,

B. R. JACKSON, Missionary.

Elder J. O'B. Lowry moved that the Missionary Board for the ensuing year be requested to devise some plan for carrying on the missionary work of the Association, and to report on same at the next session of the Association.

After remarks by the Moderator, Elder J. W. Lowry, Bro. M. Moore and T. C. Carter, the motion was adopted.

Bro. D. W. McGaughey, from the Committee on Missionary Work for the Past Year, presented the following report:

We your Special Committee appointed on Missionary Work for the past year, beg leave to report that we have carefully examined the report of the Treasurer of the Mission Board of this Association, which was referred to us, along with the reports of Elders Jackson and [illegible] and submit the following for your approval.

*Resolved*, That so much of the report of the Treasurer of the Mission Board, in paying over the money received by him to Elder Joseph Mitchell, be approved by this Association.

*Resolved*, That this Association stands pledged to Elder B. R. Jackson to the amount of $500, less the amount received by him from churches in his field of labor.

*Resolved*, That this Association is indebted to Elder A. B. Couch to the amount of $250.

*Resolved*, That the first moneys received by the Treasurer of the Mission Board of this Association be, and the same is hereby appropriated, (after paying the actual expenses of this session) to the payment of Elders Jackson and Couch, pro rata amounts due each.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. McGAUGHEY,
W. S. BOGTON,
JOHN M. COOPER.

After remarks by Elders A. B. Couch, B. R. Jackson, J. W. Lowry, the Moderator and Bro. J. M. Cooper, the report was adopted.

On motion of Bro. J. M. Cooper the Association adjourned until 3:30 P. M.

Prayer by Elder J. M. Warrick.

3:30 P. M.

The Association resumed its session with singing the hymn—

Come we that love the Lord
And let our joys be known,

and prayer by Elder H. P. Hanson.

On motion of Bro. James Woolley a committee of five was appointed, consisting of Bros. Joseph Grisham, D. Rayford, W. N. Bolton, J. M. Cooper and W. A. Alexander, to recommend preachers for the next Association.

After retiring a few minutes the committee recommended that Elder J. O'B. Lowry preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder A. R. Couch, alternate; Elder Wm. Spence to preach the Missionary Sermon, Elder B. R. Jackson, alternate; which was adopted.

Bro. C. E. Thames, from the Committee on Finance, presented the following report, which was adopted:

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report that they find that there is still due, by the Association, to

| | |
|---|---|
| Elder Joseph Mitchell | $ 84 83 |
| Elder A. R. Couch | 250 00 |
| Elder B. R. Jackson | 402 25 |
| Total | $737 08 |
| Credit by Cash and Pledges | 298 50 |
| Leaving balance due and unprovided for of | $438 58 |

Received for Associational Purposes, $28 05.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. THAMES, Chairman.

Bro. D. W. McGaughey, from the Committee to recommend a Missionary Board for the ensuing year, presented the following report, which was adopted:

We your Special Committee, appointed to recommend suitable brethren for the Missionary Board, have attended to that duty and respectfully report: That the Mission Board for the ensuing year be composed of the following brethren:

C. E. Thames, W. H. Rowell, Thos. P. Miller, T. C. Carter, Geo. A. Pearce, D. P. Bestor and W. A. Alexander.

Your Committee further recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That four members shall constitute a quorum of the Board, and in

case of death, resignation, or any other cause, the Board shall have power to fill such vacancy or vacancies.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. McGAUGHEY,
M. MOORE,
W. H. ROWELL.

Bro. T. C. Carter offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the entire missionary work of the Association be left with the Missionary Board, and that we authorize the Board to appoint one member from each church in the Association to assist them in making collections to support the missionary work.

On motion of Elder H. P. Hanson, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Association be tendered to the brethren and friends of the Broad Street Church for their hospitality extended to the delegates of the Association.

Elder Chas. Long moved that we adjourn to meet on Friday before the 4th Lord's day in May, 1870, at the Whistle Church, which motion was carried.

Before announcing the adjournment the Moderator addressed a few appropriate and feeling remarks to the Association.

After prayer, the members, with those present, joined in singing the hymn—

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in christian love,

and extending to each other the parting hand.

WM. SPENCE, *Moderator*.

T. C. CARTER, *Clerk*.

---

Letter from Salem Church was received after the adjournment of the Association. See Table of Statistics.

Contributions for the Centennial movement should be sent to Elder J. O'B. LOWRY, Bro. M. G. HOLLEY or Bro. G. A. PEARCE, Mobile.

# TABLE O ICS.

| CHURCHES. | When Constituted | LOCATION. | PASTORS. | P. O. | SABBATH WORSHIP. | Addi's | | | Diminutions. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Baptisms. | Letter. | Restored. | Letter. | Exclus'n. | Death. | Erasures. | Total. |
| Bay Minette.. | 1870 | Baldwin co., Ala.. | .....Not rep | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beaver Me'd'w | 1874 | Mobile co., Ala.... | T. E. Rowell... | | | 17 | 11 | .. | 3 | 1 | 1 | .... | 44 |
| Broad Street.. | 1856 | Mobile co., Ala.... | .....None..... | | Every | 16 | 2 | .. | 10 | 3 | 3 | .... | 172 |
| Brook Cedron. | 1845 | Baldwin co., Ala.. | .....Not rep | | | | | | | | | | |
| Escatawpa..... | ..... | Washington co..... | .....Not rep | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fellowship .... | 1856 | Mobile co., Ala.... | B. R. Jackson.. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fair Hope..... | 1875 | Mobile co., Ala.... | Chas. Long.... | | 3d | 5 | .. | .. | 2 | .... | 1 | .... | 34 |
| Oak Grove..... | .... | Mobile co., Ala.... | .....Not rep | | 2d&4th | 2 | 15 | .. | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| Palestine..... | ..... | Jackson co., Miss.. | E. L. Roberts.. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Palmetto St't.. | 1873 | Mobile, Ala..... | T. N. Coleman.. | | | 2 | 4 | .. | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 34 |
| St. Francis St't | 1845 | Mobile, Ala..... | J. O B. Lowry. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salem..... | 1859 | Waynesboro', Miss | W. D. Northrop | | Every | 4 | 7 | .. | 4 | 9 | 2 | .... | |
| Shell Banks... | 1858 | Baldwin co., Ala.. | H. P. Hanson.. | | Every | 23 | 10 | .. | 17 | .... | 3 | 10 | 93 |
| Spring Hill.... | 1870 | Baldwin co., Ala.. | .....Not rep | | | | | | | | | | 84 |
| State Line..... | 1871 | Wayne co., Miss... | O. D. Bowen... | Miss | 3d | 6 | 5 | .. | 4 | .... | .... | .... | |
| Tide Water.... | 1847 | Jackson co., Miss.. | .....Not rep | | 4th | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 | 4 | .... | 51 |
| Union..... .... | 1869 | Mobile co., Ala.... | B. R. Jackson.. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Washington.... | ..... | Greene co., Miss... | .....Not rep | | 2d | 13 | 8 | 1 | 31 | 4 | 1 | .... | 94 |
| Whistler..... | 1870 | Whistler, Ala..... | B. R. Jackson.. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zion..... | 1848 | Mobile co., Ala.... | Wm. Spence... | | | 2 | .. | 1 | 1 | 3 | .... | .... | 53 |
| | | | | | 2d&4th | 3 | 9 | 3 | 5 | .... | 2 | .... | 69 |
| | | | | | 2d&4th | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | .... | .... | 115 |
| | | | Total | | | 93 | 72 | 8 | 81 | 36 | 17 | 10 | 1135 |

# SUNDAY

## SUNDAY SCH

| CHURCHES. | SUPERINTENDENTS. | POST O |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

# ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the Old and New Testaments to be the revealed mind and will of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of election; that God chose His people, in Christ, before the world began.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, justified, and glorified.

8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are Gospel ordinances; that immersion is the only mode of Baptism; that believers are the only subjects.

9. We believe that regularly baptized members, in good standing, have a right to the Lord's table.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment; and that the joys of the righteous and punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting.